



MEMORANDUM

From the office of Town Administrator Peter R. Flynn

Date: October 29, 2015

From: Peter Flynn

To: New Boston Board of Selectmen

Subject: Town Highway Department NBCS Responsibility for Winter Maintenance (Plowing etc.)

Over the last two months I have listened to many sides to the debate over whether the Town Highway Department should or should not be responsible for plowing, sanding and salting the New Boston Central School grounds and parking lot.

The public discussion began when Superintendent Brian Balke appeared before the Board of Selectmen on September 8th and discussed the NBCS surplus and the much talked about the generator.

An unscheduled discussion concerning the snow plowing issue at the NBCS was prompted by me very much to the surprise to both Brian Balke and Dick Perusse. I did this because it was hanging out there with no final conclusion and it seemed that some people were looking to me to offer a suggestion.

At the time I was not asked to make a recommendation but listened to both sides of the issue including comments from the Selectmen and a member of the audience.

The consensus that evening by the Board of Selectmen was to continue the present system throughout the present school fiscal year which takes us through the upcoming winter season.

I have been since told by Brian Balke that he was preparing a budget for next year to include privatizing the plowing services just in case a decision was made to privatize this service.

Having said all of the above, it is my opinion that the New Boston Highway Department should no longer be responsible to plow salt, sand and remove snow from the New Boston Central effective July 1, 2016.

The heavier argument to me is that the expected timeline for performing this service by the Highway Department has become problematic in that it is sometimes, if not most of the time, the Department has difficulty in determining when there are delays in opening or simply just having no school at all. Many groups use the gymnasium later in a given storm day or night and are expected to have snow clearance done as a priority also.

I personally recommend the contracting of a private vendor to provide the services of snowplowing, and sanding services for the driveways, parking lot and required open lots and that an RFQ should include a bid on this service for a three year period.

In the interest of my personal disclaimer of being a member of Henniker School Board and Town Administrator in two other communities, I have been in this situation before and speak from my experiences which lead me to my recommendation.

I also have available a sample RFQ and related information which I have attached for your review.

This not an attempt to upstage any person or board connected to this matter. It is only used as a sample of what I am recommending through my experience in school/government service.